



SENATE  
MAJORITY LEADER

**KEN SIKKEMA**

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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 9, 2006

**Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming, made the following statement today:**

"It is critical that the minimum wage fix be completed as quickly as possible, especially by September 1. If this important reform continues to be blocked, there will be job losses and further damage to Michigan's fragile economy. Time is of the essence. I urge others to set political considerations aside and do what's best for the state.

"We need to move swiftly and get Michigan back on track. With this spirit in mind, Senate Republicans are moving today to discharge two important measures. One is Senate Bill 453, which offers an earned income tax credit and a helping hand for thousands of deserving, low-income families. The second is Senate Bill 1335, which would provide merit scholarships and help Michigan students go to college and prepare for jobs of tomorrow. While each of these measures would have an impact on our state budget, I am willing to put them forward because both have enormous potential. Let's be bold and move our state forward. I strongly encourage my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to consider these worthwhile proposals."

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